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Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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DRAFTED BY: ARA/ BC: LGIRDLER
APPROVED BY: USOAS: JJJOVA
USOAS - TFCRIGLER
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R 142312 Z MAY 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 091946

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, CI, US
SUBJECT: OAS REFORMS

REF: SANTIAGO 1946

1. YOU MAY TELL FONMIN ALMEYDA OR OTHER GOC OFFICIALS THAT IN GENERAL WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE (SPECCOM) WITHOUT PRECONCEPTIONS. WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE VIEWS OF OTHER OAS MEMBERS AND WOULD PARTICULARLY LOOK FOREWARD TO EXCHANGING IMPRESSIONS WITH CHILE. WE HAVE NOT YET FORMULATED ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR REFORM, BUT INTEND TO TAKE ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE PART IN COMMITTEE' S WORK. MORE SPECIFIC IDEAS FOLLOW:

2. WE ARE INCLINED AWAY FROM CHARTER AMENDMENTS AT LEAST AT THE OUTSET. MANY REFORMS NOW ENVISAGED BY OUR FELLOW MEMBERS SEEM TO BE OF A FUNCTIONAL OR TECHNICAL NATURE,
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AIMED AT REDUCING BUREAUCRATIC INEFFICIENCY, OVER-CENTRALIZATION IN WASHINGTON, UNNECESSARY MEETINGS, ETC. THESE WOULD NOT APPEAR TO REQUIRE CHARTER REVISION AND TO EXTENT THEY SEEM USEFUL AND PRACTICAL WOULD RECEIVE OUR SUPPORT. MEASURES REQUIRING CHARTER REVISIONS COULD OF COURSE BE CONSIDERED IF THEY SEEM NECESSARY.

3. WE OF COURSE SUPPORT SPECCOM MEETINGS IN LATIN AMERICA, AND UNDERSTAND THAT NOT ONLY PERU BUT ALSO VENEZUELA AND URUGUAY ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING SPECCOM SESSIONS. FOR REASONS OF EFFICIENCY WE FAVOR SPECCOM' S DOING AS MUCH SPADEWORK AS POSSIBLE IN WASHINGTON WHERE SUPPORT FACILITIES ARE MOST READILY AVAILABLE.

4. IN BROADER SENSE, WE BELIEVE THAT, DESPITE CURRENT DISSATISFACTION (SOME OF WHICH WE SHARE), THERE IS MUCH OF VALUE IN PRESENT SYSTEM, WHICH SHOULD BE PRESERVED: E. G., PEACEKEEPING MACHINERY, DEVELOPMENTAL COOPERATION, AND MUTUAL SECURITY, ETC. WE HAVE NO FIXED NOTIONS OF WHAT CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE, BUT WE WILL WORK TO REDUCE AREAS WHICH DIVIDE US AND EMPHASIZE ASPECTS OF SYSTEM WHICH SERVE INTERESTS OF ALL MEMBERS.

5. COMMENT: OASGA PREPARATORY COMMITTEE NOW LABORIOUSLY DRAFTING REGULATIONS FOR SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND HAS SET MAY 15 AS DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING HOSTSHIP OFFERS FOR COM-MITTEE' S FIRST MEETING. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT MEETINGS WILL BEGIN BY MID- JUNE, NOT ONLY TO GIVE SOME SENSE OF FORWARD MOVEMENT BUT ALSO FOR OUR OWN INTERNAL BUDGETARY REASONS. STILL UNDER DISCUSSION IS WHETHER GOVERNMENTS SHOULD APPOINT THEIR OAS AMBASSADORS TO COMMITTEE OR DRAW UPON OUTSIDERS.

6. NATURALLY WE WILL APPRECIATE BEING AS FULLY AND PROMPTLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE ABOUT WHAT IDEAS AND INITIATIVES GOC MAY HAVE IN MIND. RUSH

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